

# 2021-2022 Independent Study Option and Frequently Asked Questions

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

Burbank Unified will offer independent study for the 2021-2022 school year for students who are unable to return to in-person learning as determined by their families/guardians. State law AB 130 defines independent study as follows "Individualized study is for a pupil whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian of the pupil."

- Families interested in enrolling their students in Long Term Independent Study should follow the following procedure:
  - For Elementary Long Term Independent Study (Grades TK-5), contact the elementary school office staff, in order to begin independent study on the first day of school. Staff will enter the parent/guardian's request into the student information system.
  - For Secondary Long Term Independent Study (Grade 6), contact the secondary school office staff, in order to begin independent study on the first day of school. School site staff will enter the parent's request into the student information system.
  - For Secondary Long Term Independent Study (Grades 7-12), contact the Independent Learning Academy, in order to begin independent study on the first day of school. More information on the Independent Learning Academy may be found using the following link <https://www.burbankusd.org/ILA>
  - Students with exceptional needs will need to have their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) modified to address the request for independent study and adjust services. Contact the Special Education Office for more information at 818-729-4449.
- Students enrolled in Independent Study for the 2021-2022 school year will have the right to return to their home school when they return to in-person learning. This includes students enrolled in Dual Immersion and students attending school on a permit.

Grade	Program	Live Instruction:
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		Certificated Teacher <b>Support:</b> Certificated Teachers and/or Classified Staff
<b>Elementary Grades TK-3</b>	BUSD Long Term Independent Study	Daily Instruction 3:00pm-4:00pm Weekly Check-ins Time TBD
<b>Elementary Grades 4-5</b>	BUSD Long Term Independent Study	Weekly instruction 3:00pm-4:00pm Daily Check-ins Time TBD
<b>Middle School Grades 6-8</b>	BUSD Long Term Independent Study	Weekly Instruction Daily Check-ins
<b>High School Grades 9-12</b>	BUSD Long Term Independent Study	Weekly Instruction Check-ins as needed

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

### **Who can Enroll in Independent Study?**

Independent study options are available for all Burbank Unified students during the 2021-2022 school year. If you would like to enroll in long term independent study, please contact your school directly. Students with exceptional needs may request independent study but will need to have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting to address the request.

### **What is the Option for students in Grades TK-3?**

All students will be assigned to their regular school. Students complete assignments at home. The family serves as the instructor of the curriculum. Students in grades TK-3 will engage in daily synchronous live instruction taught by a BUSD teacher and weekly check-ins with a District staff person.

### **What is the Option for students in Grades 4 and 5?**

All students will be assigned to their regular school. Students complete assignments at home. The family serves as the instructor of the curriculum. Students in grades 4-5 will engage in weekly synchronous live instruction taught by a BUSD teacher and daily check-ins with a District staff person.

### **What is the Option for students in Grade 6?**

All students will be assigned to their regular school. Students complete assignments at home. The family serves as the instructor of the curriculum. Students in grade 6 will engage in weekly synchronous live instruction taught by a BUSD teacher and daily check-ins with a District staff person.

## **What are the Options for Middle and High School Students in Grades 7-12?**

Students in grades 7-12 who are unable to return for in-person learning are invited to enroll in the Independent Learning Academy (ILA), the District's independent study school. All students will be assigned to the Independent Learning Academy but may return to their home schools preferably at the end of the semester. Students complete their school assignments at home. Students engage in live, virtual instruction with their Burbank Unified independent study teachers weekly and check-in with their teachers or a classified staff person daily via the internet or as needed depending on their grade level.

- Students in grades 7-8 will engage in weekly synchronous live instruction and daily check-ins with a District staff person.
- Students in grades 9-12 will engage in weekly synchronous live instruction offered by their teacher of record and check-ins with their teacher or a classified staff person as needed.

## **Why do Middle and High School Students in Grades 7-12 Attend the Independent Learning Academy?**

For college acceptance, it is important for middle and high school students in Grades 7-12 to attend a [WASC accredited](#) school. The Burbank Unified Independent Learning Academy is an independent study program and is WASC accredited.

## **Why is remote learning not an option like it was last year?**

The State of California does not allow for a distance learning option for the 2021-2022 school year.

## **How do I Enroll my Student and What is the Enrollment Deadline To Begin on the First Day of School?**

Families wishing to enroll their student in Independent Study should contact:

- Elementary: Notify the elementary school office staff by Wednesday, August 11, 2021, who will enter the parent's contact information and the name of the student
- Grade 6: Notify the middle school office staff by Wednesday, August 11, 2021, who will enter the parent's contact information and the name of the student
- Secondary (7-12): Notify the Independent Learning Academy by Wednesday, August 11, 2021, <https://www.burbankusd.org/ILA>

Families will be contacted after August 11 to schedule a meeting with our

Independent Study program teachers and staff during the second week of August. Enrollment forms and an independent study contract will be completed at that time.

### **Can I Enroll or Disenroll my Student at Any Time and Return to In-Person Learning?**

Yes. Per California Education Code, students may enroll in independent study or return to in-person learning at their home school within 5 days of notifying the independent study program staff. To minimize disruption to the student's academic program, we strongly recommend students transition to or from in-person learning at the end of the academic term (trimester for grades TK-5, semester for grades 6-12).

### **Can my Student Return to their Home School?**

Yes. Students enrolled in independent study for the 2021-2022 school year will have the rights to re-enroll at their home school when they return to in-person learning. This includes students enrolled in our Dual Immersion and students attending school on a permit.

### **What is the Independent Study Curriculum?**

Students will engage in the District curriculum provided by a BUSD teacher. Lessons will be taught and supported using an online independent study platform. Assessments will be determined by the teacher.

### **Who will be my Student's Teacher?**

Each student will be assigned a Burbank Unified independent study teacher who will provide live, virtual instruction and check-ins with students daily or weekly depending on their grade level. An additional teacher or classified staff person may be assigned to monitor progress, meet with parents/guardians, and ensure that program requirements are being met. Students in grades TK-5 will also be assigned to a regular classroom teacher.

### **How will Students Receive and Submit their School Work?**

Most assignments will be completed using Google classroom or another online learning platform. Some assignments may require paper and pencil. For these assignments, teachers will make arrangements for pick up and drop off with students and families.

### **Will my Student Receive Grades or Marks for their Classes?**

Yes. Assignments will be graded within five days of submission. Elementary students in grades TK-5 will receive grades at the end of each trimester; middle and high school students in grades 6-12 will receive grades at the end of each

semester. Teachers will provide parents/guardians with regular updates on their student's progress.

### **Are All Assignments Graded?**

Not every assignment is graded. In primary grades especially, students will be assigned many assignments that are not lengthy. The classroom teacher will grade 5-10 assignments weekly in Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics.

### **How Often will Teachers Meet with Students and how will Meetings and Instruction Take Place?**

Burbank Unified independent study teachers will meet with students daily, weekly, or as needed based on the student's grade level. Most meetings and live instruction will take place virtually through Google classroom or another online learning platform. In-person meetings may occur periodically if requested by the parent/guardian or teacher or to conduct assessments.

- Students in grades TK-3 will engage in daily live instruction offered by their teacher of record. Students will also engage in online check-ins weekly.
- Students in grades 4-8 will engage in weekly live instruction and daily check-ins with their teacher of record. Students will also engage in online check-ins every day.

Students in grades 9-12 will engage in weekly live instruction offered by their teacher of record and check in with their teacher as needed.

### **How will my Students get their Textbooks, Chromebooks, and Other Materials?**

Students will be provided with all necessary materials for learning, including textbooks, school supplies, and technology. Students and families will be invited to pick up their materials before the start of school.

### **Is there a Daily or Weekly Schedule to Follow?**

Yes. Burbank Unified independent study teachers will provide a weekly schedule of when live synchronous instruction, live interactions, and teacher/parent/student meetings will take place when additional support is available, and when students should be working independently. Students and families will receive prior notice of any schedule changes.

### **What Role do Parents/Guardians Play in Independent Study?**

Parents/guardians are responsible for providing a learning environment that allows their students to focus on independent work and engage in synchronous instruction and live virtual interactions with teachers, support staff, and other students. Parents/guardians should closely monitor their student to ensure they

are actively engaged in live instruction, completing independent work, and turning in assignments on time.

### **What if my Student Needs Additional Support?**

Independent study teachers will provide additional support for students who need it. Teachers will also work with parents/guardians on strategies to support their student. Students may have an additional teacher or aide meet with them virtually to provide support related to their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or assist with English Language Development.

### **What Support will be Provided for Students with Exceptional Needs?**

Students with exceptional needs will continue to receive support as determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Students who are enrolling in independent study will meet with their IEP team and have their IEP modified to address the request for independent study and adjust services, as needed.

### **Will Students Enrolled in Burbank Unified Dual Immersion Programs Receive Support in their Target Language?**

Live instruction and instructional support in a student's target language will be part of the independent study program. Students and families may be able to check out materials and access online resources in their target language if available to maintain their dual immersion study. If a dual immersion teacher is not available, the dual immersion class will not be offered through independent study. Contact the elementary school to enroll for independent study.

### **Can my Student Participate in Activities at their Home School?**

Students enrolled in independent study can participate in some activities offered by the school, but not in activities that occur during the school day. Picture day is allowed.

### **How Can I Get More Information?**

Please contact Burbank Unified Student Services at 818-729-4400 or email [Re-openingSchool@burbankusd.org](mailto:Re-openingSchool@burbankusd.org)